

## REPORT

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A total of 70 Diesel-type underground locomotives are used in the Czechoslovak iron ore mines (Železovudna Ban, NP). Forty of these are of an old design and have been in use for 15 years. All 70 are considered uneconomical to maintain, and there are no spare parts available. Home-produced spare parts are costly, inaccurate in design, and of poor quality. The greater part of these locomotives are consequently immobile. The gauges of these locomotives vary between 400 and 600 mm., and therefore they are not uniformly interchangeable between mines.

Out of a total of 1,100 pneumatic drills at present in use, some 5 percent lack water sprayers (attachments for keeping down dust while operating). Use of these drills without sprayers causes silicosis of the lungs, and some 30 percent of the scheduled manshifts are lost through this. Fear of this disease and the general lack of health precautions are greatly hindering further recruitment. Loss of output through silicosis is 15 to 20 percent (sic). A deputation of miners to Dr. Soltesz of Bratislava asked for 500 drills fitted with sprayers. They were promised 200, to be purchased from the USA at a cost of 100,000 dollars, but the Czech Government decided that this amount could not be spared.

The ball-bearing situation in the mines is critical. The general management of the Czech mines has ordered all stocks of ball bearings held in mining maintenance stocks to be assembled at a central dump for redistribution, leaving the mines with a minimum of essential reserves.

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